

PIONEER PERSISTANCE #1
PIONEERING PATIENCE
2 Corinthians 6:4-8 (NKJV)

The work of a pioneer IS HARD WORK... we are going to look at some of the struggles Paul faced in pioneering and how he overcame them. This will be practical for you TODAY, and will help your future pioneering ministry. Today we are going to look at Pioneering Patience.

2 Corinthians 6:4-7 (NKJV) But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; ⁶ by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left

I TIME:

A- In pioneering and working with people, we have to factor in the Reality of Time...

1. An overall truth in life, Good things take time... There's not really any "shortcuts" for the good things

2. Think: Building your money takes time, building character credit takes time, building trust takes time-

a. Timeframes can vary depending on the person, people connected, circumstances... but there isn't a substitution for time-

B- This begs the question **why?** Why do good things take time?

1. B/c its the order of life: **Mark 4:28** For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

a. From the planting to the harvest, it just takes time! There isn't a way around this-

b. You need to get comfortable with time. Pastors make mistakes when they rush things too quickly-

i. In SF within 6 months we felt like we were their pastor! In NY, after 2 years we felt like we were their pastor-

II PATIENCE:

A- The answer to the time reality is patience. **2 Cor6:4** But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much **patience**... this word means a STEADFAST ENDURANCE

1. You need to be *ready* to marathon in ministry. *I enjoy distance running, there's so much you wrestle out on 3mi, 6mi, 10 or 13*

a. You know there's still race ahead, so I need to pace to maintain endurance to finish.

2. That's the view with pioneering and working with people... some will grow like weeds (*get things fast*), others will eventually be a redwood giant, but its going to take some time!

a. Both are growth just at different levels.

B- See, Patience has some benefits:

1. Wisdom with people: You will be able to be versatile with varying converts.

a. **PWM**: Run with your runners, and walk with your walkers- ... You need wisdom to identify who is what!

2. Let God be God: We will refrain from being the HG, we will be able to leave some things with God!

a. When I went to NY, PG said "*Don't feel like you have to change everything for God to help you*"

i. That saved my life... That enabled me to let God be God... Times where I felt *like* a hand on my chest.

3. Helps you to celebrate the small victories: Instead of focusing on where people **aren't** at, you celebrate their good decision!

a. PG: What you celebrate you cement... Even the small victories pay big dividends because you have patience!

i. **Zech4:10** Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin... God rejoices in the small victories, why? Because He is **patient**!

4. In ministry, in Pioneering, in working with people, you are going to need PATIENCE!

III MINISTERS OF GOD

A- Patience is a quality that encourages ministry to continue in you

1. Sometimes, pastors give up because its not happening in the time they imagined or expected... Which is why we need God!

a. **2 Cor 6:6** by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left...

i. Paul says I can be patient, by 8 spiritual enablements... I can be patient because I **TRUST GOD**

B- Now, There are some ways you can encourage growth!

1. Continuing to Labor: **Keep spreading seed**... The more seed you plant, the more potential for a harvest.

a. Planting 1 seed will yield a 1 seed crop... Planting 100 seeds changes the crop!

i. I find guys complaining about ministry, but they aren't planting anything!

2. Follow up: Its good to water that seed; With relationship, prayer, scripture, connections... Some seeds take time to germinate

a. But as you keep watering, revisiting, redepositing, turning the soil... one day it clicks!

3. Prayer: God can hasten growth... God can do amazing miracles in one day!

a. **Joel 2:25** I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.